quantity of urea was received by MMTC in April 1996. Indian Overseas Bank has taken up the release of above money to the National Oil Company, Libya through the Ministry of External Affairs. MMTC has no further liability or role in this transaction.

Trade related intellectual property rights

1522. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state:

(a) whether India has violated the agreement on trade related intellectual property rights in case of agricultural, chemical and pharmaceuticals by not accepting patent applications immediately on the conclusion of Uruguay Round;

(b) if so, the consequences likely to follow; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to deal with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) In pursuance of the provisions of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Dispute (DSU) and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a panel has been established to examine a complaint by the USA which alleges the absence in India of either patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products or formal systems that permit the filing of patent application for such products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products.

(b) and (c) The proceedings under the DSU of the WTO are underway. The Government proposes to participate actively in the process to defend its interests.

Information of Export Import Prices

1523. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any mechanism to keep up-to-date information about the current export-import prices of items at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Commerce does not keep up-to-date information about the current import-export prices at the international level since the Ministry does not itself import or export any commodity. However, depending on commodities of export or import interest to them, public sector trading companies like the State Trading Corporation (STC) and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) keep tract of international price movements of items of their trade interest.

Techniques of Shrimp Farming

1524. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has successfully demonstrated Eco-friendly and stress free culture techniques of shrimp farming;

(b) if so, whether this technique is being spread over to other shrimp form areas; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Wide publicity has been given to the techniques reaching enterprcneurs and farmers.

(c) During the year 1996-97 MPEDA